

# Recreation Options Public Input Summary

Public Comment Period March 7 to March 28, 2017

On March 7, 2017 the DNR posted recreation alternatives to the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area master plan web site. The recreation alternatives included two alternative development plans for the Hodge Lake Area, additional trails at three locations on the property, a picnic shelter at the David R Obey Interpretive Center and a proposed paddle-in campsite on South Shattuck Lake.

A news release was posted online on March 7. It was also sent to media in Chippewa, Barron, Rusk, Taylor, Clark, Eau Claire and Dunn counties. In addition over 190 emails were sent to people on the CMSRA master plan GovDelivery mailing list. We sought comment from public participants, local governing bodies, project partners and elected officials.

A public meeting was held on March 21 to gather comments on the recreation alternatives.

## Public Meeting Summary:

*Meeting Location: David R. Obey Interpretive Center*

*Date and Time: March 21, 2017 from 4 PM to 7 PM*

*Staff in Attendance: Dave Hladilek, Rod Gont, Cameron Bump and Ann Freiwald*

*Public Attendance: 12 people*

### Meeting Notes

Meeting attendees expressed support for the proposed trail loops and were in favor of the additional remote camp sites.

Many attendees were unfamiliar with the concept of cart-in camping. After a brief explanation they expressed mixed feelings about the cart-in campground, some in favor and some against. The people against the cart-in campground felt that the level of development needed to accommodate the campground was not in line with the wilderness feel of the property. In addition, some were concerned that the proximity of the campground to the parking lot (less than ¼ mile) would encourage “party camping” which would lead to noise and litter problems they currently do not have on the property.

A few attendees requested that the parking lot for the Hodge Lake Area be placed just off of Breezy Point Road and allow walk-in access only to the old girl scout camp.

Attendees were in favor of the proposed picnic shelter and the paddle-in campsite on South Shattuck Lake.

Everyone in attendance was pleased that the master plan recreation alternatives were generally in keeping with the quiet, wilderness appeal of the property.

Meeting wrapped up at 7 PM.

## **Comment Forms Summary**

*Zero comment forms* were received during the public comment period.

## **Letters and Emails Summarized**

We received *seven emails* during the public comment period.

To summarize the emails:

- Maintain the remote wilderness feel of the property
- Shorten the Hodge Lake driveway to allow walk in access only
- Support the new primitive trails, picnic shelter, beach and remote campsites
- Request to name a trail or other amenity on the property after Adam Cahow, geologist and long- time volunteer
- Request to move the project boundary out the STH 40 to the north to provide access and visibility for the property from the highway
- A teacher expressed his gratitude for the property as an “invaluable teaching tool”
- One email preferred cart-in camping, all others preferred the remote sites

## **Summary**

It appears the public is generally happy with current recreation opportunities at the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area. They enjoy the “wilderness” feel of the property, but are in favor of additional miles of trails and remote campsites as long as the new development is does not disturb the quiet of the property or the glacial landscape it was designated to protect.